

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 17, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 10-15 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Roff (US Patent 5,764,836) and Sasaki (US Patent 5,960,141) and rejected claim 9 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Roff and Sasaki and further in view of Tabuchi (US Patent 5,757,999). In response thereto, the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10. Claims 1-7 and 9-15 remain at issue.

The Art Rejection

The claims have been amended to include a cylindrical shaped connector sleeve defining a receptacle having a first opening located at a first end of the cylindrical shaped connector sleeve and a second opening located at a second opposite end of the cylindrical shaped connector sleeve. The first opening is configured to receive the silicon bench and ferrule. The second opening is configured to receive a plug-in connector. The optical fibers in the ferrule and the plug-in connector are optically aligned within the cylindrical sleeve.

Neither Roff or Sasaki, either alone or in combination, teach the present invention as claimed. Specifically, neither reference teaches a cylindrical shaped connector sleeve defining a receptacle having a first opening located at a first end of the cylindrical shaped connector sleeve and a second opening located at a second opposite end of the cylindrical shaped connector sleeve.

In contrast, the sleeve 301 of Roff, while cylindrically shaped, accommodates only the bore 101 of a ferrule 100. See Figure 1 and Column 3, lines 55-57. Roff specifically teaches that the sleeve 301 does not accommodate or receive either a silicon bench or a plug-in connector. This is clearly evident in Fig. 4.

Sasaki teaches an optical fiber housing 70 that has an opening 72 for receiving an optical module 54 and another opening for receiving an optical fiber connector 38. See Figs 9 and 10 and Column 8, lines 34-36. The optical fiber housing 70 of Sasaki, however, is not cylindrical. It there for does not have first opening and an opposite

second opening located at other end of the cylinder. Rather, as clearly illustrated, the opening 72 is through the top and bottom surfaces, not on one end of the housing 70. Sakaki therefore does not teach or suggest the present invention as claimed.

Since neither Roff or Sasaki, either alone or in combination, teach the present invention, the claims are now allowable.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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